

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 15, 2017 - 7:30 pm
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Ave., Second Floor Conference Room
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Oscar Riba, Barbara Spellmeyer and Mary Burgwinkle.

2. Open Public Meeting Act: Publication was handled by the Planning Division.

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the October 25, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

2017 STC Budget

Ms. Stefel is still seeking final cost for fall planting and a date from L. Barbato, whereupon we can get a final budget.

Greening of Union County

Mr. Simone reported that he had the list of trees and planting locations. He will send to all of us. As indicated above, we do not have a date for the planting.

STC/Planning Board site applications

ZB 2017-18 1314 West Front Street. This is a lot near the corner of Clinton Avenue and West Front Street. The plans submitted did not show Rights of Way, existing or proposed trees or plantings on the property or in the Rights of Way. Ms. Burgwinkle will visit the site and report back so that STC can make suggestions on planting.

Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects-2016 tree replacement

Ms. Burgwinkle inquired about whether there was a contract for tree replacement and status. Cynthia Smith forwarded a copy of a letter written by Remington Vernick engineers to the road contractor, requesting removal/replacement in Spring 2018. STC deemed "Spring" to be March or April so that the conditions will be wet enough for trees to survive. Ms. Burgwinkle will get back to Cynthia with that information. Now that the leaves are coming off all of the trees for the winter, STC deemed that there was no need to take the dead trees down until the Spring.

NJ Tree Foundation Grant Proposal

Mr. Simone reported that several Plainfield Schools are participating in a New Jersey Tree Foundation Grant for planting on School Properties owned by Board of Education, not within STC's jurisdiction. He consulted with BOE (Elena Lopez and Gloria Montealegra) and Lisa Simms of NJTF, who is writing the grant. The sites are Hubbard School, which will get 5 trees to replace end of life London Plane trees on 8th St. in front of the school. There is a ball field on Stelle, that

will get 7 Tupelos. At Cedarbrook School, 10 Yellowwood or Kentucky Coffee trees will be planted 20 feet in from the sidewalk. They are also considering Jefferson, Washington and PAAS as potential planting sites.

STC Applicants for opening Commissioner Positions

Mr. Simone has talked to Ron Johnson (former Zoning Officer in Plainfield, who now works in Cranford but lives in Plainfield) and Holly Hoffman, former Director of the Trailside Museum. He has advised them to complete and submit applications to the Mayor's Office.

2017 Arbor Day -YMCA plantings

STC got an estimate from Barton for 10 Variegated False Holly plants and 10 Asters to add to the landscape. Planning is working on getting the purchase order and check, which were delayed for technical Edmunds system reasons. Ms. Burgwinkle has lined DPW up to deliver and plant when the PO is final and she will attend the planting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2017.